any influence in the matter to secure the release of Dr. Mithleshwar Singh, the Indian hostage.

Chinese introduction in Arunachal Pradesh

164. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Chinese intrusion and occupation of territory by Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) what is the outcome of the talks so far held with China with regard to the vacation of the occupied territories and withdrawal of troops by China from the said Indian territories; and

(c) whether any high level talks are likely to be held in the matter, if so, when and at what level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) In mid-June 1986 Chinese personnel, including some in uniform intruded approximately 2-3 kms., as the crow flies, into the area of the Sumdorong Chu Valley in Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese personnel continue to remain in that area.

(b) and (c) In our talks with the Chinese Government, we have lodged our strong protest on this intrusion into our territory. The Chinese response has been that the area in question was on their side of the McMahon Line. Government of India have categorically rejected the Chinese claim and stressed that the area was well within Indian territory as it was clearly South of the McMahon Line which constituted the international boundary in this sector. Government of India are in touch with the Chinese Government on this question through diplomatic channels.

Solution of Ethnic problem in Sri Lanka

165. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI F. M. KHAN:

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the development in the recent weeks in arriving at a solution to the problem of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka;

(b) the details of good offices provided by the Government of India to Sri Lankan Government in the matter; and

(c) the prospects of reaching at a solution in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) After the July, 1983 ethnic riots, India offered its good offices for resolving the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. Since then India has been striving to narrow the differences between the two sides and to work out a package of proposals which meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Tamils within the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. Discussions have been held, and messages exchanged, with the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil groups with this objective.

Following discussions between Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President in Bangalore in November, 1986, Indian Ministers of State Shri Natwar Singh and Shri P. Chidambaram visited Colombo in November and December, 1986. Based on these discussions, a set of proposals had emerged. But before these could be discussed with the Tamil side, the Sri Lankan government seemed to waver in its commitment to them. Meanwhile, the situation on the ground deteriorated drastically in early January when the Sri Lankan Government imposed an economic blockade on Jaffna and launched a major military action in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

(c) Government's grave concern at the continued military action has been conveyed to the Sri Lankan government and it has been brought home to that government that continued military action will affect India's action and attitude to the Sri Lankan situation.

Agreement between India and Pakistan to defuse tension along the borders

166. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI F. M. KHAN:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between India and Pakistan to de-escalate the situation along their borders and not to attack each other;

(b) if so, what is the text of the agreement;

(c) whether Pakistan has started pulling out its troops;

(d) whether it is a fact that after the signing of the said agreement Pakistani forces resorted to firing along Jammu and Kashmir border; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) There has been, as in the past, intermittent exchange of fire along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. Members will doubtless bear in mind that the agreement on de-escalate under reference relates to the international border and not to the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement

Minutes of Consultations between Mr. Abdul Sattar Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Mr. A. S. Gonsalves Secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs held from January 31 to February 4 1987

IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO DEFUSE PRESENT TENSION, TO PREVENT ESCALATION AND TO DE-ESCALATE THE SITUATION ALONG THE INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER.

(i) Both sides agree not to attack each other;

(ii) Both sides agree to exercise the maximum restraint and to avoid all provocative actions along the border;

(iii) In regard to concrete de-escalation measures both sides agreed to adopt a sector by sector approach for the pull out of troops deployed on the border by both sides.

In pursuance of these parameters both sides agreed as a first step, to the pull out of troops in the Ravi and Chenab corridor. In this corridor:—

(a) All offensive and defensive forces of both sides will pull out to peace time locations within 15 days of the date of initialling of these minutes. Additional formations inducted in the Ravi-Chenab corridor by both sides i.e. Army Reserve North comprising 6 Armoured Division and 17 Infantry Division on the Pakistan side, and 6 Mountain Division on the Indian side will also return to peace time locations within 15 days of the date of initialling of these minutes. Pakistan would retain one independent armoured brigade and an independent infantry brigade of the holding Corps reserve.

(b) The poll out of troop will be undertaken in a graduated manner and will be monitored through regular contact to be maintained by the DsGMO of both sides.

(c) The modalites for the sector-wise pull out in other sectors would be discussed subsequently; in the intervening period both sides agree not to make any offensive movements to the international border in these sectors;